

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

be kept strictly secret. Traitors were executed with dramatic flourish for its effect upon members and upon the country at large. A few accidents in the preparation of arms and ammunition in December, 1929 led the police to discover 700 bombs. More important was the party's method of filling its depleted treasury by acts of banditry which also helped the police in tracking them down. The police got so hot on their trail that the party decided prematurely to launch their programme from the preparatory state to that of action. Their efforts were concentrated upon the troops which garrisoned Yenbay, because this post controlled the Red River valley, and simultaneously action could be concerted with the Yuimanese party.

On the morning of February 10, 1930, a dispatch from Hanoi startled the French public with the news that the native soldiers had mutinied at Yenbay the night before and had killed some of their French officers. A warning had been received but it was disregarded. The murders were particularly brutal, but the rebels were either frightened by the morning light or by the resistance offered them, for at dawn they returned to their barracks in good order. The days that followed were marked by violent outbreaks all over the colony. At Hanoi bombs were thrown at the Commissariat; a policeman on the Pont Doumer was wounded; the sub-prefect of Vinhbaou was assassinated. Simultaneously in widely separated regions in the three Annamite countries long lines of insurgents marched to the Resident's home to present their grievances. Most of these manifestants were unarmed, and they marched in impressive silence. Unfortunately the Residents and militia became nervous, and after giving repeated orders and warnings to disperse, they

opened fire on the crowd. At about the same time 700 match workers at Benthuy attempted to burn down their factory, and this could not be attributed to economic grievances as they had just received a rise in wages. The simultaneousness of these manifestations betrayed a unity of direction. Thousands of peasants participated in these movements, which spread all through the Annamite countries.

Some of the party leaders tracked by the police took refuge in the Tonkinese village of Coam, where they tortured the local officials and sought to rally their forces. An aeroplane attack finally succeeded not only in dislodging them but in killing 200 of the innocent villagers. As in old Annam the tearing down of Coam's bamboo barricade was the official consummation of its disgrace. A little later the party leader, Le Him Cauli, and remnants of his followers were arrested in the midst of new preparations to kill Pasquier. *The* perennial need for money,